

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A method to protect a transgene from silencing, wherein an insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced concurrently with the transgene.

2. (Original) The method to protect a transgene from silencing according to Claim 1, wherein the transgene is introduced using a viral vector.

3. (Original) The method to protect a transgene from silencing according to Claim 2, wherein said viral vector is a lentiviral vector or a retroviral vector.

4. (Currently Amended) The method to protect a transgene from silencing according to ~~any of Claim 1 to Claim 3~~, wherein said insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced in anti-sense orientation.

5. (Original) A method for introducing a gene, wherein an insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced concurrently with a transgene so as to protect the transgene from silencing.

6. (Original) The method for introducing a gene according to Claim 5, wherein gene transfer is performed using a viral vector.

7. (Original) The method for introducing a gene according to Claim 6, wherein said viral vector is a lentiviral vector or a retroviral vector.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for introducing a gene according to ~~any of Claim 5 to Claim 7~~, wherein said insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced in anti-sense orientation.

9. (Original) A method for production of a vector, wherein an insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced into the vector so as to protect the vector from silencing.

10. (Original) The method for production of a vector according to Claim 9, wherein said vector is a viral vector.

11. (Currently Amended) The method for production of a vector according to Claim 9 ~~or Claim 10~~, wherein said vector is a lentiviral vector or a retroviral vector.

12. (Original) The method for production of a vector according to ~~any of Claim 9 to Claim 11~~, wherein said insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced in anti-sense orientation.

13. (Original) A vector for introducing a transgene comprising an insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene so as to protect the transgene from silencing.

14. (Original) The vector according to Claim 13, wherein said vector is a viral vector.

15. (Currently Amended) The vector according to Claim 13 ~~or Claim 14~~, wherein said vector is a lentiviral vector or a retroviral vector.

16. (Currently Amended) The vector according to ~~any of Claim 13 to Claim 15~~, wherein said insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced in anti-sense orientation.

17. (New) The method to protect a transgene from silencing according to Claim 2, wherein said insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced in anti-sense orientation.

18. (New) The method to protect a transgene from silencing according to Claim 3, wherein said insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced in anti-sense orientation.

19. (New) The method for introducing a gene according to Claim 6, wherein said insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced in anti-sense orientation.

20. (New) The method for introducing a gene according to Claim 7, wherein said insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced in anti-sense orientation.

21. (New) The method for production of a vector according to Claim 10, wherein said vector is a lentiviral vector or a retroviral vector.

22. (New) The method for production of a vector according to Claim 10, wherein said insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced in anti-sense orientation.

23. (New) The method for production of a vector according to Claim 11, wherein said insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced in anti-sense orientation.

24. (New) The vector according to Claim 14, wherein said vector is a lentiviral vector or a retroviral vector.

25. (New) The vector according to Claim 14, wherein said insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced in anti-sense orientation.

26. (New) The vector according to Claim 15, wherein said insulator from sea urchin arylsulfatase gene is introduced in anti-sense orientation.